

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 10933 151001Z
ACTION OES-07

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FOR OES; EA/J

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, PGOV, JA
SUBJECT: CREATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OFFICE IN
GOJ MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. INDEPENDENTLY, OHTA AND WATANABE OF FOREIGN MINISTRY
TOLD SCICOUNS JUNE 14 ON CONFIDENTIAL "NON-TALK" BASIS
(NOW SUPERSEDED BY APPEARANCE OF NEWSPAPER STORIES) THAT
ON JULY 1 THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL REORGANIZE ITS
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FUNCTIONS. THE EXISTING
SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS DIVISION (UNDER OHTA) OF THE UN
BUREAU WILL BE ABOLISHED AND A NEW OFFICE OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY REPORTING DIRECTLY TO THE VICE MINISTER
WILL BE CREATED. THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE WILL BE
ATSUHIKO YATABE, CURRENTLY DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
UN BUREAU. YATABE WILL HAVE PROTOCOL RANK EQUIVALENT TO
DIRECTOR GENERAL.

2. PRINCIPAL REASON FOR REORGANIZATION IS TO GEAR UP
TO HANDLE EXPANDED S&T COOPERATION AND PROBLEM SOLVING
WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY U.S. IT HAS BEEN
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APPARENT FOR SOME TIME THAT UN BUREAU HAS BEEN HEAVILY
ENGAGED IN BILATERAL S&T AFFAIRS (E.G., CANADIAN
URANIUM EMBARGO AND THE TOKAI MURA ISSUE), STEPPING ON THE
TOES OF BUREAUS WHICH HAVE HAD NOMINAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR
BILATERAL MATTERS BUT WHICH HAVE NOT HAD SUFFICIENT
TECHNICAL COMPETENCE OR BACKGROUND TO DEAL WITH S&T.
REORGANIZATION WILL STRENGTHEN S&T CAPABILITY OF MOFA,

PROBABLY RESULTING IN ADDITIONAL STAFF BEING ASSIGNED TO S&T MATTERS. ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS IN PAST, SENIOR MOFA OFFICIALS HAVE OBSERVED THAT THE TRY NEEDS BETTER TECHNICAL COMPETENCE, WITH SO MANY INTERNATIONAL ISSUES INVOLVING COMPLEX SCIENTIFIC OR TECHNOLOGICAL INPUTS.

3. WATANABE SAID THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD WITH RELIEF TO BEING ABLE TO TURN OVER HIS CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING PRIMIN'S S&T INITIATIVE WITH PRESIDENT CARTER TO YATABE AND NEW OFFICE. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

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